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Happy New Year

GOODBYE 2024, HELLO 2025

Paw Paw's favorite son, Charlie Maxwell passes

Charlie "Paw Paw" Maxwell played 14 years in major league baseball. Eight of those years were with the Detroit Tigers. He played in two All-Star games. He died last Friday at the age of 97. See obituaries on Pg 6.

Erik Hindenach, of Paw Paw, and his son, Jake, spent a summer Sunday afternoon with Charlie Maxwell. Erik recalled that visit to The Courier-Leader. "Jake and I spent a nice Sunday afternoon talking baseball with Charlie Maxwell at his home this summer. Jake won the Charlie Maxwell MVP Award at Paw Paw High School this season and wanted to meet up with him and get his picture taken. Charlie was always so nice and accommodating anytime we saw him. RIP Charlie – whenever people asked where I was from, baseball fans always mentioned Ol' Paw Paw Maxwell."

Photo courtesy/ Erik Hindenach

State Senator Aric Nesbitt, a native of Lawton, penned a tribute on social media to Maxwell that read: "From being born and raised in Lawton to making Paw Paw his home, Charlie "Paw Paw" Maxwell was a beloved figure in Southwest Michigan and a Detroit Tigers Legend. You could always find him at LaCantina ready for a chat and to sign an autograph. He will be truly missed. Godspeed, my friend."

Photo courtesy/State Senator Aric Nesbitt

Charlie Maxwell was a frequent patron of LaCantina Ristorante, Paw Paw. The business posted a photo and tribute to Maxwell that read, "In loving memory of our friend Charlie Maxwell. We'll save your seat." LaCantina said the spot was dedicated in memory of Charlie by the restaurant's bartender, Danielle Barney. They both enjoyed visiting with each other !!!"

Photo courtesy/LaCantina Ristorante

CHARLIE MAXWELL
MAXWELL WAS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR OF THE TIGERS, NICKNAMED "OL' PAW PAW" AFTER THE WEST MICHIGAN CITY WHERE HE LIVED. HE BECAME DETROIT'S SUNDAY HERO FOR HITTING NUMEROUS CRUCIAL HOME RUNS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON. HE SPENT 14 YEARS IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES WITH THE TIGERS, WHITE SOX AND ORIOLES AFTER STARRING AT WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY. HE PLAYED IN 1133 MAJOR LEAGUE GAMES AND HAD A CAREER BATTING AVERAGE OF .264, HOMERING 148 TIMES AND DRIVING IN 533 RUNS. HIS GREATEST YEAR WAS 1956 WHEN HE HIT .321 WITH 28 HR's AND 87 RBI's. INDUCTED INTO THE MICHIGAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 1997.

Charlie Maxwell, who died Friday, Dec. 27, was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 1997. A plaque citing Maxwell's Major League Baseball achievements in baseball was given a permanent home during a ceremony held in November 2021, at the Paw Paw District Library, where Maxwell spoke and signed autographs.

Courier-Leader file photo/Paul Garrod

Dr. Loomis celebrates 100th Birthday

F. J. Loomis, MD celebrated his 100th birthday on December 28, 2024. In 1952 he and his wife Priscilla moved to Paw Paw upon completion of his service in the US Navy. He opened a medical practice which served newborns to grandparents, school physicals to home visits—and some-times weekend 'clinic' in his living room. He transitioned to emergency care at Lakeview Community Hospital in the 1960s. In 1974 he fled the cold, snowy Michigan winters and moved to cen-tral North Carolina to serve in the ED in Pinehurst. He retired from practice in about 1990 and has spent these thirty-plus years enjoying his faith, family, and golf. He loves Paw Paw still and sends greetings to all who recall him.

Dr. Loomis 1952; Joe Loomis, daughter Dana Corcoran & family, 12/28/24; Joe Loomis birthday donuts, great granddaughter Giavanna, granddaughter Lindsey, 12/28/24

Alcohol believed to be a factor after vehicle smashes into home

By Paul Garrod
Staff writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

BANGOR TWP. – A Bangor Township home was damaged early Sunday morning, Dec. 29, when a Battle Creek man allegedly drove his vehicle into it. Alcohol is believed to be a contrib-uting factor, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said that sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the intersection of 32nd Avenue and 70th Street, in Bangor Township, at approximately 2:30 a.m. for a report of a vehicle having crashed into a house. The driver, a 38-year-old male from Battle Creek, traveling eastbound on 32nd Street, failed to stop at the 'T' intersection with 70th Street, and pro-ceeded to drive through the yard and into the front of a house on the east side of 70th Street.

Sheriff Abbott said the residence was occupied by the homeowner, who was not in the room breached by the vehicle's front end at the time of the crash. The male driver was taken to Corwell Hospital, St. Joseph, as a result of injuries sustained in the crash.

Sheriff Abbott said a search warrant for blood was executed at the hospital and the blood kit was sent to the Michigan State Police Crime Lab for analysis. The investigation remains open, pending results of the blood draw with eventual submission to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Assisting agencies included the Covert and Pokagon Tribal police departments, Harbor Towing, Van Buren Emergency Medical Services (VBEMS), Bangor Fire & Rescue, and AEP.

Bangor man allegedly threatens Sheriff's deputies with baseball bat and knives

BANGOR TWP. – Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that sheriff's deputies responded Friday, Dec. 27, at approximately 11 p.m. to the 38000 block of 62nd Street in Bangor Township regarding a welfare check/ PPO violation complaint. The caller advised the suspect ar-rived at the home and was afraid he was going to assault the protected party from a valid personal protection order. The caller advised all occupants of the residence besides the suspect and vic-tim were safe and had left the home and were awaiting law enforcements arrival.

When deputies arrived, they made contact with the caller, being the homeowner who let them into the residence. Once inside the residence, the suspect was found to be barricaded in a back bedroom with the protected party member, being a 33-year-old female. Deputies attempted to get the suspect to exit the bedroom by giving lawful commands. The suspect refused to com-ply. At one point the suspect came out armed with a baseball bat making threats to kill the depu-ties on scene. The suspect threw the bat at deputies and retreated into the bedroom with the vic-tim.

After a short verbal exchange, the suspect exited the bedroom armed with two knives. A taser was deployed but was ineffective. The suspect threw one of the knives at the deputies. The suspect again retreated into the bedroom, according to Sheriff Abbott.

After a lengthy negotiation, the suspect finally exited the bedroom and was taken into custody without any further incident. No injuries were sustained to either party nor the victim. The sus-pect was lodged on several felony charges including welfare check/ PPO violation, kidnapping, resisting and obstructing, and interfere with telecommunications.

Two in custody, others facing charges stemming from burglary of stolen Jeep, other items

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

BLOOMINGDALE TWP. - Two subjects are in custody and others are facing charges after Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies were involved in the pursuit of a stolen vehicle that stemmed from an investigation into a burglary of multiple storage units in Bloomingdale Township, accord-ing to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said on Friday, Dec. 27, at 10:15 a.m., Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a storage unit facility in the 13000 block of County Road 665 in Bloomingdale Township for a report of multiple units being broken into four hours prior. During the investigation, it was determined that a 2005 Jeep Wrangler was stolen along with a significant amount of other personal property. After taking the initial complaint, deputies began checking the surrounding areas and were able to locate the Jeep at a residence in the 13000 block of 49th Street in Columbia Township. The Jeep was occupied by one subject who refused orders from deputies and fled in the vehicle. Deputies pursued the vehicle through Columbia and Bangor townships for approximately 20 minutes until the Jeep became disabled and stuck in a field. The suspect, a 32-year-old male from Kalamazoo, fled on foot and attempted to hide in a barn on the property. He was located by deputies and taken into custody without further incident. During his arrest, deputies located methamphetamine in his possession.

After that subject was in custody, deputies returned to the address on 49th Street where they drafted and executed a search warrant for other stolen property. During the search they lo-cated property from the storage units as well as a camper trailer that had been reported stolen out of Kalamazoo. Deputies conducted multiple interviews and were able to establish probable cause to arrest a 45-year-old male from the Bloomingdale area for his role in the burglary.

Reports are being reviewed by the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for possible charges on other subjects who were located and interviewed at that residence as well.

Search warrant leads to recovery of stolen firearm

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

GENEVA TWP. – Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that sheriff's deputies re-sponded to a larceny of a .45 caliber Springfield handgun complaint in the 69000 block of M-43 Highway, according to a press release from the Van Buen County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said the victim had video surveillance on his prop-erty and a suspect was developed. Deputies were able to draft and execute a search for the sus-pect's residence located in the 65000 block of County Road 376 in Bangor Township. The search warrant was executed, and the suspect and firearm were located. The suspect cooperated in the investigation.

The suspect was lodged at the Van Buren County Jail on charges of larceny in a building, carrying a concealed weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, and felon in possession of ammu-nition, and two outstanding warrants.

The incident was reported on Dec. 24, at 4:11 a.m. A search warrant was executed at ap-proximately 12:30 p.m. the same day.

SUV smashes into Arlington Twp. house

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a car versus house PDA (personal damage accident) in Arlington Township. "It was found that the operator of the vehicle was under the influence of methamphetamine during the incident. It was also found he just got out of prison last month," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott. The driver was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, parole violation, and OUID (operating under the influence of drugs). Other charges may be coming forth based on oth-er circumstances in the incident.

Uniform Response handled a larceny of a handgun in Geneva Township. The victim had video surveillance on his property and a suspect was immediately developed. Deputies drafted a search warrant for the suspect's residence and executed it in Bangor Township. The handgun was recovered. "The suspect was lodged for larceny in a building, carrying a concealed weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of ammunition, and two outstanding bench warrants," said Sheriff Abbott.

K9 Quillen will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable dona-tion from Vested Interest in K9's Inc. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9's Inc. has provided over 5,878 vests to K9's in all 50 states. "What a great organization for a great cause, we cannot thank them enough for the vest," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in Antwerp Township. The investi-gation found that the suspect stabbed his father. The wound was not life threatening. The suspect was lodged for felonious assault.

Uniform Response handled a larceny complaint in Paw Paw Township. Someone went into a Van Buren Emergency Medical Services (VBEMS) garage bay and stole a battery out of the engine compartment of an ambulance that was setting there. Deputies are actively working on the larceny.

"I would like to thank the community for all the support to not only to me, but to all the elected officials in the county. I was sworn in with other elected officials on Friday, Dec. 27 at 3 p.m. I'm once again looking forward to serving as your sheriff in Van Buren County," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response and Animal Control executed a search warrant in Porter Township for an animal neglect case. Five dogs were confiscated and were in poor condition and two deceased dogs were located and taken as well. Deputies are actively searching for the homeowners/dog owners. Once the investigation is complete, it'll be reviewed by the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for charges and disposition of the dogs.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Paw Paw Fire Department escorts Santa on Christmas Eve

Marking the fourth year, the Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Department escorted Santa Claus around Paw Paw on Christmas Eve. St. Nick waved to area residents while the fire truck made its way through Paw Paw.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Road Commission approves 2025 budget

LAWRENCE - The Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County unanimously approved the agency's 2025 budget at its December meeting. The Road Commission strives to be the best possible steward of the revenue it receives by balancing the needs and wants of the community with the funding it receives. The challenge is maintaining and improving the 1,313 miles of roadways the Road Commission is responsible for, while Michigan Transportation Funds continue to fall short and are not able to keep up with inflation.

To determine where the limited funds can best be used, the VBCRC uses the following process:

- 5-Year Asset Management Plan that is reviewed annually by the Board.
- The VBCRC submits applications for critical bridge funding annually, and every three years for road project funding.
- Equipment and facilities are maintained and improved. All equipment and facility needs are reviewed annually for a 3-Year Plan.

In addition, the VBCRC is committed to applying for as many grants as possible to maximize its limited funds. In the past few months, the VBCRC has received grants totaling $8,000,000, with a local match of $4,000,000 for projects taking place over the next three to four years. And the VBCRC is only able to have funds available for the local match because of the commitment of the county residents in renewing the county-wide millage. Without the county-wide road millage these projects would not be possible.

The State of Michigan recommends Road Commissions maintain a fund balance ranging between 20-25 percent of annual budgets. Keeping in line with this, the Road Commission's Preliminary 2025 budget maintains a fund balance of 23.97 percent based upon annual expenditures.

The current outlook for the Van Buren County road system is positive through maintaining a healthy fund balance, careful planning and grant awards. Unfortunately bridge funding is anticipated to decrease by five percent per year, statewide. Additionally, the Michigan Transportation fund has not kept up with inflation over the past 25 years, resulting in an annual deficit for our Road Commission of over $4 million. These deficits continue to place an additional burden on our local funds and will result in the need for additional revenues if we are to keep up with current road and bridge maintenance and improvement plans.

The Road Commission's budget is adjusted by the Board, as necessary, and is available on the agency's website at www.vbcrc.org/budget. Any questions regarding the budget or planning process can be directed to Finance and Human Resources Director, Linnea Rader via email at linnearader@vbcrc.org or by phone at (269) 674-8011 ext. 233, or to Bret Witkowski, Managing Director, via email at bretwitkowski@vbcrc.org or by phone at (269) 674-8011 ext. 222.

Family Fun Days at the Michigan Maritime Museum

By James Windell

It's Winter Break time and families need something to do. The Michigan Maritime Museum has you covered with nautical family fun during Maritime Days January 2 to 4, 2025 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Each of those three days will be filled with a variety of different interactive and hands-on things to do throughout the Museum.

For instance, on Thursday, January 2, families can experience water science demonstrations, science experiments, and hands-on activities in the Jerry Mason Learning Center.

On Friday, January 3, visitors can get a behind-the-scenes experience with volunteers and staff of the Museum's Winter Work Session crew in the Padnos Boat Shed where they will learn about tall ship Friends Good Will and vessel maintenance, linework, knot tying and more.

And, on Saturday, January 4, children and their parents can pick up the Maritime Days Adventure Agenda that includes scavenger hunts, activities, games, and exhibit explorations throughout the whole campus.

"Whether you have been to the Museum before or this is your first visit, Maritime Days are a fun and different way to interact with us during the winter that is great for folks of all ages," says Ashley Deming, Director of Education & Programs. "Not only can you explore the Museum and exhibits, but you also get the chance to enjoy the beauty of our wintery harbor along the Black River. Our Great Lakes and waterways are truly something special in the winter too."

The Museum invites people to engage with maritime history all year long and see the different activities going on in the winter from their waterside location.

All Maritime Days activities are included with Museum admission. Bring the whole family and join in Maritime Days!

The Michigan Maritime Museum is located at 260 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven. Hours for the Maritime Days Family Fun activities are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on January 2 to January 4, 2025.

For more information about the Museum's events, please visit: https://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/events/.

Event Details
Event: Maritime Days
Date: January 2-4, 2025
Time: 10 AM - 3 PM
Location: 260 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090
Cost: FREE to Museum Members, Included with General Admission

Rotary recognizes three Aspire students

The Paw Paw Area Rotary recognized three Aspire Academy Students of the Month for the first marking period (trimester) at the rotary's November meeting. Shown in photo from left, Brody Hauser – October Student of the Month; Beckah Chartier, Aspire Academy Director; Rowan Angell-Dongus – November Student of the Month; Glorianna Hammel – September Student of the Month; Shannon Roberts, Cedar Street Counselor, and Sue Danielson, Paw Paw Area Rotary president. The students were each recommended by the Aspire Academy teachers, invited to the rotary's luncheon meeting with their parents, presented with certificates.and were given $50.

Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Area Rotary

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A lot going on in little ol' Pullman

By Gari Voss

The sleepy village of Pullman has taken on a new look over the last couple of years. Beautify Pullman has taken the lead with improvement grants that add additional streetside foliage, a historical mural, and a Town Square complete with a train for kids to climb, a children's wall and pavilion.

In collaboration with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and passionate individuals, a memorial was added to the Town Square that honors those from Pullman who defended their country.

The volunteers and residents of Pullman did not sit back on their laurels during 2024. In January, they welcomed Amber Mortensen to Pullman Elementary when their former principal, Melissa Corona, accepted a position at the Van Buren ISD as Director of Instructional Services. This has been an important link in the community along with People Helping People that continued to support the community with the Linking Center and Worship Center. Pullman's children and families flourish through the work of volunteers.

After much networking, March brought a free public WiFi hotspot to the Pullman Town Square. This brought addition traffic as residents enjoyed the Square while catching up on their computers and phones.

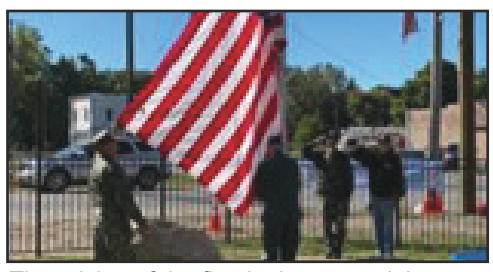
At the end of May, the Memorial Day festivities included a flag raising at Pullman Town Square, a free community picnic, the annual Memorial Day parade sponsored by Pullman VFW Post 6134, and a Memorial Service held at Lee Township Cemetery. This has become an annual event, and each year brings a few surprises and lots of good food.

June kicked off the weekly Pullman Summer Concerts Series with a local favorite, The Black River Band. Families and individuals could bring their picnics and enjoy some food on the Square. Through June, July and August, visitors enjoyed Lynn & the Moonshine Runners, Michael & Sophia McIntosh, McKinney & Brown, Michael Mulett, the Jimmy Savage Band, the Kevin McDaniel House Band, Descarga Musical, Life Bait and the Perfect Storm.

Also beginning in June came the Farmers Market at Pullman. The Market opened each Thursday in the Pullman Town square and featured produce, eggs, cider, bakery goods, and crafts. Frequently on the Square were Country Roads Kettle Corn, Wiley Rooster Farm & Greenhouse, Bluegold Regenerative Organics, Jeni's Sweet Tooth Bakery, Overhiser Orchards, Down Home Farm Eggs, Country Life Natural Foods, and Pullman Pie Company. Visitors could get information from Lake Michigan College and Meals on Wheels while listening to live music by Panda Pete and enjoying complimentary coffee, lemonade, and hot dogs.

July 4th, the annual Pullman Pride Day celebration raised over $3000 for the Dee Wesbey Pullman Pride Scholarship fund. The day featured a pancake breakfast, the 3rd Annual Pullman car show, a craft fair, Pullman History Museum tours, a senior lunch, a cornhole tournament, and a concert by the Jimmy Savage Band. The streets and square were rocking!

The Square may have seemed a little quiet at times, but the MFS RealPlay Arena was beginning to attract families and individuals for "electrifying activities, including family game tournaments, karaoke showdowns, live music events, and more." Daniel Tood believed it was time for Pullman to have a family fun place, so he built it. Holidays are always special, while he took time to have a Walk-a-Thon and to earn money for those who suffer from addictions. As 2024 ends and 2025 begins, Daniel and the gang will have more opportunities for the Pullman community while offering a place to have private birthday parties and gatherings.



The raising of the flag in the memorial corner of the Pullman Town Square starts many events.

The Farmers Market at Pullman brought shoppers and visitors to the Town Square to purchase a variety of produce, baked goods, and more through June, July and August.

MFS RealPlay offered families, friends and individuals a fun place to go to enjoy games, music and camaraderie in Pullman, so people did not have to drive far for a night out.

In a few years, the streets and yards of Pullman will have wonderful shade trees. Fourteen were planted to replace trees taken out by the county during the road improvement project.

Creating a streetscape that will allow people to move smoothly around the Pullman area will not be easy, but Beautify Pullman and other members of the community are working to make this happen

In mid-November, Beautify Pullman Set Sail for Disaster during their new adventure by hosting a murder mystery dinner fundraiser at Fenn Valley Winery

October focused on bicycle safety. Bikes are just one way children can travel safely to school. Learning about how to ride safely and to take care of bicycles was the theme of the day. The frosting on the cake were the bike racks that were installed by the Town Square and Post Office.

Beautify Pullman rolled out the red carpet in October for a Bicycle Rodeo event that combined teaching bicycle safety with fun. Bicycle tune-ups were offered, and free helmets were given to all children who participated. The community became more bicycle-friendly with the installation of a bicycle fix-it station, and bicycle racks in downtown Pullman.

Over two weeks at the beginning of November, 14 trees were planted in downtown Pullman to replace trees lost during roadwork and to add shade to the Pullman Town Square. The town is grateful for the generosity of the Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation that gave a grant to replace trees on 56th street and 109th avenue. Also, thanks to Ron and Sue Barrett for the donation of trees and of equipment and labor to plant the trees. Finally, thanks to Kathy Burczak of Abonmarche Consultants and Dan Pastoor of Twin Lakes Nursery for assistance in choosing trees that will thrive.

In December, over 400 neighbors gathered in Pullman for the ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL. All received a hot meal of ham or roast beef, sides and desserts. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a fire truck with gifts for children ages 12 and under.

The leadership around Pullman keeps looking forward. During 2024, a grant allowed the community to solicit the talents of Abonmarche to evaluate the area and begin the process of creating a Placemaking and Connectivity Plan. The group also looked at creating Safe Routes to School (SRTS). After hours of examining possible paths to school, the store, the health clinic, etc., the Abonmarche team was able to present their findings to the Beautify Pullman Board and other community leaders.

There is still much to do before the goals of the groups supporting the Pullman populations come to fruition. It will require one step at a time, and lots of moxie to keep reaching forward.

Area girl to travel to the Netherlands to represent America in The Cup

By Paul Garrod
Staff writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

An area girl has been selected to represent America in The Cup, which will be held this month in the Netherlands.

Haley Lhamon, a freshman at Mattawan High School, has been playing softball since the age of four, when she started T-ball. After playing Little League from age four to age nine, she decided she wanted to take it to the next level and started competing in travel ball. Lhamon played for Kalamazoo Kings 9u and 10u. She then started playing for the Finesse organization, where she has played ever since.

Lhamon loves to play the game and has become an amazing softball player that can play infield or outfield, but her heart has always been behind the plate, according to her mother, Heather Lhamon. She would catch every game that she could many times catching four or five games a day in tournaments and never looking like she was tired or hot even when it was 90 degrees.

Heather Lhamon described her daughter as "a beast behind that plate. At the plate, she has become fearless with hitting three home runs this last season and looks forward to many more," as a freshman.

The event is the second most prestigious international softball event in the world behind the Olympics.

The Cup is in its 29th year. First held in Lyon, France and then moved 25 years ago to the Netherlands. Countries and national level athletes from the Czech Republic, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, etc. will be part of who makes up the tournament event's team lineup.

Haley will also be taking in some history, culture, cuisine and the adventure of traveling to Ann Frank's home in Amsterdam, then on to Paris where she will take in the sites of Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Mona Lisa, Napoleon's Palace, the Eiffel Tower and a host of other world class educational opportunities.

Paw Paw Community Chorus plans spring concert

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Community Chorus will begin practice Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Paw Paw First Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of Kalamazoo and Pine streets, in prep-aration for its annual Spring Concert, Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw.

The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn, will be accompanied on piano by Evonne Heystek.

The following selections will be presented by the chorus. They include: "Appalachian Celebration" (Wildwood Flower, He's Gone Away, Sourwood Mountain)/Arr. by Earlene Rentz, "Nine Hundred Miles"/Traditional Ameri-can Folk Song/Arr. by Philip E. Silvey, "Bring Us Hope" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "The Times They Are A-Changin' by Bob Dylan/Arr. by Adam Podd, "1650 Broadway" (Splish Splash, Love Potion Number 9, Poison Ivy, Yakety Yak, There Goes My Baby & Stupid Cupid) Arr. by Roger Emerson, "You Are My Hero" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "Puttin' On The Ritz" by Irving Berlin/Arr. By Kirby Shaw, "You Made Me Love You" by Joe McCarthy and James Monaco/Arr. by Jay Althouse, "Folk Song Suite" arranged by Jay Althouse.

The chorus welcomes all singers from the Southeast Michigan area to join in this endeavor. For more information, contact, E. Ike Porter at (269) 366-9864, Bruce Safbom at (630) 817-0100, or Theresa Vaughn at (269) 668-4631.

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South Haven diver celebrates second place

South Haven's Clara Hoag (center) stands on the podium after taking second at the state diving finals.

By John Raffel

Clara Hoag's career as a diver at South Haven High School is one she'll remember for a very long time.

Hoag finished second at the state meet in November.

Hoag had a final score of 364.45 at the meet to finish second behind Anna McAllister of Chelsea, who had a score of 407.40.

"I was undefeated during the dual meet season," Hoag said. "I was conference runner-up this year and was second at the Division 3 state finals (in the one-meter dive)."

Hoag began diving in 2021 in her high school freshman year.

"I had been a gymnast for about seven years," Hoag said. "I started swimming in middle school and I always loved the idea of diving. We got the opportunity to have a diving coach my freshman year in South Haven. I gave it a shot and it ended up being something I really loved and something I'm really event.

"I focused on diving. I did a few relays at some of our high school meets. Diving is my primary event. (This year) I made a lot of improvements in my dive. I got some new advanced dives in there; I also improved my scores in both my six-dives and 11-dives records."

The key in being a good diver, Hoag said, "is surrounding yourself with people supporting you and having a good environment. It really uplifts you and encourages you."

Hoag is going to continue club diving for the winter, spring and summer

"I've reached out to a few colleges about joining their college and diving programs," she said. "I have not made a decision yet.

"My diving career has been unique. I not only have teammates from South Haven but I practice with girls from Kalamazoo who are also divers. That/s impacted my self-confidence. There's a wide variety of people who give me support and it means a lot to me."

Gobles junior a spark for basketball team

Aden Newberry looks to be a top scorer for Gobles this season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Aden Newberry is poised to have a very good season for Gobles boys basketball team. This will be his third year.

"Going in as a freshman, it was tough," Newberry recalled. "Sophomore year we got coach Curtis as our new coach and it was a learning experience."

Newberry got all-conference honorable mention honor last season.

When he is not the court, "I think they look for me to do a little bit of everything," he said. "I can score down low, be a leader, do a little bit of everything."

Newberry is usually one of the top scorers on the team.

His highest point total so far this year is 17 points. "I think I have a pretty good mid-range jumper," Newberry said. "I think I'm a good defender. I can block shots pretty well."

A team goal, Newberry said, would be to win districts and make it deep into the playoffs and be a conference contenders. The key in each game, he said, is communicating. Sometimes we don't communicate very well on the floor and making sure we do the right things."

Coloma "will be a pretty tough team," Newberry said.

Newberry plays basketball year round.

Newberry's sophomore season of track and field at Gobles was a very good one.

He was a distance runner for Gobles.

"I almost broke five minutes in the mile," he said."Me and my 4 by 8 team set a PR by 20 seconds."

His mile PR was a 5:00.8 at the Centreville Invitational.

Gobles wrestler is off to excellent start

Colton Colingsworth, of Gobles, works on his opponent in recent action

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Colton Colingsworth and his Gobles wrestling team is off to a promising start so far.

The Gobles varsity wrestling has gone 2-0 in dual matches and winning the

team title at the Burton Richards Memorial and taking second at the Grover Memorial.

Gobles had nine medalists in both tournaments where they competed against top ranked teams.

"Going 8-2 for the season so far I have greatly improved from previous years," Colingsworth, who wrestles at 175 pounds, said. "Compared to last season I have been wrestling smarter, and with better defense. My shot defense and ability to scramble were areas I sought to improve going into this season and I can confidently say I have made significant progress thanks to my coaches and teammates who continue to push me harder every week.

"As an upperclassman and an experienced wrestler I am a role model to the younger guys. I am establishing myself as a leader to the team and am setting a standard for myself and Gobles wrestling going forward. My freshman and sophomore seasons I was learning and finding my way through this sport. This season I am still learning of course but now I can see myself helping and inspiring others. I feel that I have a positive impact on my team and my community."

Colingsworth was asked for his fundamental strengths as a performer.

"I would say that my mentality, pace, and perspective on my sport are cornerstones of my performance," he answered. "I have learned to let go of outcomes, records, and titles; the only thing that matters is who wrestles harder, as I've put in all the work already. Now I get to put myself to the test and prove my dedication to wrestling.

"Going into the 2024-25 season I knew where I was lacking and I spent the time I've had to work on my defensive wrestling: head, hands, defense and sprawls. I have also learned how to focus my mind and reset myself. At the Grover memorial I not only led my team in match points and takedowns but I also led the tournament in match points, winning gold and securing 20-plus team points. I owe all my success and improvement to my coaches who have had faith in me throughout my high school career."

Colingsworth added: "Looking back to the beginning of the season and my ambitions for this season I believe I am on track to achieve my goals. I have seen more success than expected but that's only the beginning, I must continue to work hard to meet my season goals.

"So far the team has set our standard of high pace and relentless mentality, that was the expectation going into this season. We've started out well but we can't get comfortable, and we will continue to push ourselves and push our standards every week."

Colingsworth said he's been in baseball at Gobles for several years however he is not likely to return to baseball this coming spring as he intends to focus on offseason wrestling and continue improving.

"Wrestling has given me a place to test myself and compete," he said. "I owe a lot to this sport and my coaches. I am proud to be a Gobles wrestler and be part of this legacy. After the 2024-25 season comes to a close I will seek out every opportunity to wrestling in the offseason to prepare myself for my senior season.

"I'm very excited for this season and how our team will perform in the postseason."

Former Mattawan star shines for national champs

By John Raffel
Corespondent

Former Mattawan football standout Jalen Jones enjoyed a very productive season with NCAA Division II national champion Ferris State University on Dec. 21 defeating Valdosta State (Ga.) 49-14 for the school's third national title in the past four seasons.

Jones is a junior defensive back for Ferris. He was the team's second leading tackler. In 15 games, he had 32 solo tackles and 25 assists for 57 total. He had nine tackles for losses totaling 27 yards. He had a team high five interceptions for 70 yards and one pass breakup.

In the title game at McKinney, Texas, against Valdosta, Jones had two tackles and two assists.

He was a standout defensive back at Mattawan High School and earned numerous varsity letters. Jones was a multi-year performer and letterwinner on the prep level and named to the Kalamazoo Gazette Football Dream Team. He played quarterback on the offensive side of the ball and was also an all-conference basketball selection. He was a dual-threat signal caller with the ability to make big plays.

Going into the national title game. Jones was confident.

"We are really excited to play this team," Jones said. "This is our biggest competition so far. We're really confident. We are confident in our preparation. We just need to play hard and give them a run for their money."

Ferris in the national semifinal game vs. Slippery Rock was down 38-27 at halftime but had a 21-0 second half scoring advantage for a 48-38 win.

"Our team is good at adjusting at halftime and coming into the second half. It was a matter of us capitalizing on our adjustments and making plays which we weren't in the first half," Jones said.

"We're confident because we prepare real hard and that makes us confident we'll get the win. We come out and try to do our thing every week. We just try to put a Cheerio on our opponent's side of the board."

South Haven wrestlers beat Bangor

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — At the recent South Haven Wrestling Invitational, the host school defeated Bangor 50-24.

For South Haven against Bangor:

Mikey Yelding (150) won by forfeit; Colt Olny (157) lost 7-6 to Jack Loomis, Gabriel Saucedo (165), decisioned Mason Williams; Chase Leadingham (175) lost 7-5 to Trap Abbott; Brayden Rowland (190) was pinned by Brendan Jackson in 4:34; South Haven (215) lost by forfeit to Enrique Macedo; Tyler Moorehouse (285) won by forfeit; Alex Bristol (106) pinned Luis Alfonzo in 5:19; Jocelyn Saucedo (113) pinned Daniel Marin in 2:48; Carter Adamson (120) was pinned by Aiden Munoz in 1:47;

Malachi Emerson (126) won by forfeit, Jose Garcia (132) beat Wyatt Schneider by technical fall 18-2; Amber Knight (138) pinned Isabel Marin-Hernandez in 1:43; and Zayden Rowland (144) pinned Devon Gilliland in 1:18.

South Haven was 3-1 for the tournament, also beating Lakeshore 48-26 and Niles 41-39. Vicksburg beat South Haven 40-30.

Winning for South Haven over Lakeshore were Chase Leadingham, Tyler Moorehouse, Jocelyn Saucedo, Carter Adamson, Jose Garcia, Lex Specchio, Hayden Rowland, Mikey Yelding and Colt Olney.

Winners for South Haven against Niles were Alex Bristol, Jocelyn Saucedo, Jose Garcia, Lex Specchio, Zayden Rowland, Mikey Yelding, Gabriel Saucedo, Eli Kuenzli and Brian Rickett.

Winners for South Haven against Vicksburg were Colt Olney, Chase Leadingham, Tyler Moorehouse, Jose Garcia, Lex Specchio and Zayden Rowland.

Mattawan wrestlers edge Wayland

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's wrestling team edged Wayland in a thriller 37-36 in recent action.

For Mattawan:

Connor Taylor 165) pinned Jake Reeder in 3:13; Gage Love (175), decisioned Ryan Sipkema 7-2; Gil Santos (190) was decisioned 10-8 by Bryton Merren; Aidan Robinson (215) pinned Aidan Robinson in 1:19; Oliver Davis (285) pinned Evan Noyes in 3:36; Erik Clausen (106) was pinned by Jody Bitner in 1:29; Dylan Putman (113) pinned Jordan Compagnario in 2:40; Ben Williamson (120) lost 19-6 on a major decision[

Anna Williamson (126) lost 18-1 on a technical fall to Miles Nesbitt and Brady DesRosiers (132) was pinned in 132 by Rex Emory.

Jake Northrop (138) blanked Caleb Brubacher 10-0; Zack Miller (144) was pinned in 4:27 by Jake Smit; George Dandinidis (150) pinned Malaci Rodriguez in 3:39 and Paw Paw forfeit to Lane Button (157).

Mattawan, on the same day, wrestled Pinckney and won 70-11, winning 12 of the 14 individual matches.

Winners for Mattawan were Cohen Lopez (157), Gage Love (165), Connor Taylor (175), Gio Santos (190), Aidan Robinson (215), Oliver Davis (285), Erik Clausen (106), Dylan Putman (113), Brady DesRosiers (132), Jake Northrop (138), Zack Miller (144) and George Dandinidis (150).

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VIEWPOINT

Dose of DOGE needed to curb government spending

Maybe DOGE has a good thing going. DOGE, the acronym for Trump's new Department of Government Efficiency headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, has been charged with eliminating waste and inefficiency at the federal government level.

I have been a big proponent of eliminating government waste, and like the last few years, I would like to tell you about several wasteful programs as outlined by Sen. Rand Paul in his annual Festivus Report. The report is 41 pages long and provides us with a whopping $1 trillion plus in government waste.

Here are a few of the highlights:

- DOGE talks a lot about empty government buildings. Sen. Paul claims the federal government spent over $10 billion in 2024 maintaining, leasing and furnishing these entirely empty buildings.
- Many businesses received pandemic funding from the federal government. Many smaller businesses did not. I received a small amount but was told I couldn't get more because the fund was depleted. Here's one reason why. A Florida man stole $8 million in COVID relief funds to buy his own private island. A failing trucking company received a $7 million COVID grant.
- Unbelievably the Department of Health and Human Services spent $420,000 to study if lonely rats seek cocaine more than happy rats.
- The Department of State awarded $2.1 million to Paraguay for border security. I find that strange. We don't much care if our border is secure, but we will fork over money to secure an obscure South American country's border.
- Speaking of other countries, the Department of Agriculture is spending $20 million to advance the use of fertilizer in Pakistan, Vietnam, Colombia and Brazil.
- Elsewhere abroad, the Agency for International Development is spending $20 million on creating a new Sesame Street show for Iraqi children.
- American taxpayers have provided $174 billion in aid and military assistance to Ukraine, however the Department of State felt it was a brilliant idea to drop an additional $4.8 million to the influencers it KYIV, Ukraine public affairs. Now we can view more Ukrainian propaganda on Instagram and Tik Tok.
- Again, from the endless coffers of the State Department, they doled out $3 million to a girl-centered climate action organization in Brazil.
- Since 2022, Dr. Fauci, longtime leader of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases approved a 2.24 million grant to study whether cats can contract and transmit COVID-19. The answer was "yes," and those that were infected were slaughtered.
- Cats and experiments seem to be synonymous. Nearly $11 million was spent by the Department of Defense funneled to the University of Pittsburg to force the felines to defecate marbles via electric shock.
- It's only $10,000, but its still our money, and the National Endowment of the Arts, awarded It to the Bearded Ladies Cabaret so that they could perform a cabaret show on ice skates focused on climate change.
- Of course, the biggest waste of money is the interest we are paying each year to support our national debt. Would you believe $892 billion? Next year we are expected to hit the trillion mark and in 10 years we will be at $1.7 trillion. That's just interest, folks. And you complain about your credit card interest? At least you are somewhat fiscally responsible. Those that distribute our tax monies have been irresponsible for decades.

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX ■ PUBLISHER ■

I believe a dose of DOGE is just what the doctor ordered. Hopefully they can complete their mission.

Life as Performance Art

'Twas a week before Christmas and all the preparations were done. Well, almost.

The Nativity creche Pat received as a child is in place on the fireplace mantle. It is always the first decoration to go up and the last to go back into storage.

The icicle lights are in place along the roofline — and still working. The wreath is on the door, tree up, presents wrapped and Christmas music on the hi-fi.

Yet something is missing: the Christmas cards. Have you written and mailed yours yet?

We are behind on sending out ours this year. Usually they're addressed by the end of November, the letter written, revised, copied and folded, and are in the mail by now. Not this year.

We ordered the cards early enough, I bought the stamps and fussed at the clerk about the price. I engaged in an old tradition of asking why they always had stamps depicting the Madonna, but never Lady Gaga. The clerk rolled his eyes; the others in line laughed.

Yet the cards still sit on the far end of the dining room table, along with a little recipe box full of names, addresses and when we last sent or received a card from someone.

When I collect the mail this year, there are fewer cards, leaving me to wonder if they are becoming things of the past.

It was not always that way. When we were growing up, Mother would buy nice, more expensive cards for some recipients, mid-range for most, then a quick stop at Woolworths to buy cheap cards for my sister and me to send. Mother spent hours addressing envelopes, writing a short note in each card and signing them on behalf of our family.

Father took a practical and jaundiced view of this tradition. "We see these people all the time, so why do we need to send them cards?" he'd ask. "Do you realize stamps cost a penny more — four cents! — this year?" He would have his say, then drop the subject and let Mother get on with her fun.

Mind you, he had his fun when he carefully looked at every incoming envelope to see if the stamp had been cancelled. If the Post Office missed one, it was a small bonus. He would carefully cut it off, soak it in water to loosen the stamp from the paper and then use it a second time. He wasn't being cheap, just thrifty.

For many years I continued the tradition in my own anarchistic way. When I was in junior high school I sometimes stopped by the Ma Bell office to look at the bookcase full of telephone directories. I'd pick out a couple names and addresses from faraway cities and then send them cards, adding something like, "Hope to hear from you - it's been a long time." That is optimism and implied guilt, all in one sentence.

I smiled, knowing they would get the card, look at it and the return address, then spend a fascinating evening trying to figure out who I was and how we knew each other.

I only sent them to people from the upper Midwest, because they were invariably polite. Before the Christmas tree came down, we would receive a card from them. In turn, Father would see the card, suddenly being polite overcome thrift and he'd reluctantly say we should send them — whoever "they" were — one in retiurns.

This went on for a couple years until the time at the church circle Christmas lunch when Grace Bonestien, the operator, ratted on me. She told Mother about my little enterprise, which Mother found amusing.

Her best friend overheard and chimed in her daughter was doing the same thing. I was accused by both mothers for being the instigator. Well, of course I was.

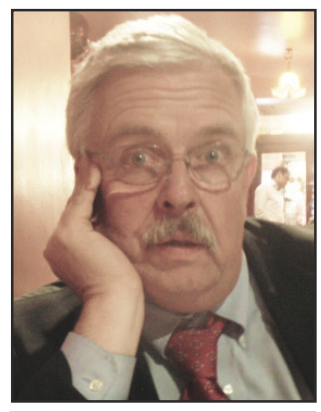
Throughout the holidays we delighted in getting cards from our friends. The fronts were always a beautiful picture that tried to capture the essence of the holidays.

Every night after dinner we would open the envelopes, Father would check to make sure the stamp was cancelled, read the card and name of the sender, then pass Mother the envelope so she could make sure her card file was up to date. She would put an "x" in the received column and check to make sure the sent column also had an "x."

Each day's collection was added to a wooden sleigh that our great uncle Fred had made years earlier.

Best of all were cards The Olds called "Merry Medico Missives." Those letters were organ recitals of various body parts that were not working as they should, surgeries, treatments and more.

One year, a mother told the tale of her child's flatulence, which was notable for its volume. The next year she gave a detailed saga of her hemorrhoidectomy. Both contained too much information.



G CORWIN STOPPEL

Christmas cards a small part of our holiday tradition, but taken together with all the other small parts, it became meaningful and important.

When Pat and I began sending our cards a quarter century ago, we probably mailed off more than 100. This year, we will be lucky if we reach 40. Many of the people we knew are no longer with us. Others have quit sending cards, and probably don't care one way or another if they receive one. Still others now send electronic greeting cards.

A Post Office clerk confirmed there are far fewer Christmas cards sent each year. I mentioned maybe it had to do with the cost of stamps, now hovering just north of 70 cents each.

She agreed, adding that because people were sending fewer cards the Post Office was not making enough money, so they have to keep raising the cost of stamps.

Somehow, that doesn't seem logical much less right, but then it is the government.

Pat and I will maintain this old tradition. We will send our cards to stay in touch, to let people know that we are thinking of them, and to be kind.

To all of you, have a joyous and Merry Christmas!

OBITUARIES

Louis Geresy Jr.

Age 86 of Kalamazoo passed away Saturday morning, December 21, 2024. Louie was born in Kalamazoo, on October 28, 1938, the son of Louis and Viola (Sennyes) Geresy, Sr. On January 31, 1957, he married Barbara Lee Jones who preceded him in death in 2022. He worked as a farmer all his life and was an extremely hard-working guy. Louie was an active member of Valley View Bible Church. Earlier he had been a member at Covey Hill Baptist Church. He was especially active in the children's ministry of the church and was known by children in the church as "Uncle Louie."

Louie loved his family. Nothing was more important to him than knowing Jesus, and he worked at being a devoted follower of Him. Louie is survived by his children, Jim (Lisa) Geresy, Evonne (Steve) Heystek, Steve Geresy; grandchildren, Christian Geresy, Sarah (Dave) Taplin, Julie (Chris) Fennell, Vicki (Chad) Thornburgh, Casey Grooten, Steve Geresy and Emma Geresy; ten great grandchildren; sister, Margaret Babcock; several nieces and nephews and countless friends.

Besides his wife, Louie was preceded in death by his parents; and a son-in-law, Rick Grooten.

A funeral service in witness to Louie's life and faith will be held on Monday, December 30, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Valley View Bible Church, 8979 W. Main St., Kalamazoo. Friends may call on the family one hour prior to the service at the church beginning at 10:00 a.m. Louie will be laid to rest next to Barbara at West Oshtemo Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Valley View Bible Church, in c/o the funeral home. Friends may leave a condolence message for the family at www.joldersma-klein.com.

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Charles Richard Maxwell

Charlie Richard Maxwell "Ol' Paw Paw", 97, of Paw Paw, MI, passed away Friday, Dec. 27, 2024. Born in Lawton, MI, April 8, 1927, the youngest of four children to the late Thomas Maxwell and Isa (Boyce) Maxwell.

From a young age, Charlie had a passion for baseball. He graduated from Lawton High School and received a baseball scholarship from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. His time at Western was interrupted as he was drafted to the Army. Upon his honorable discharge, Charlie resumed his love for baseball. He returned to the minor leagues and played in Wellsville, NY, Birmingham, AL, Louisville, KY, and Roanoke, VA.

While in Virginia, Charlie met Goldie Ann Morgan. They were married on June 12, 1950, and moved to Paw Paw, where they started a family. Shortly after their wedding, Charlie made his major league debut on Sept. 20, 1950, with the Boston Red Sox. He tied a major league record in 1959, while playing with the Detroit Tigers, against the New York Yankees, with four consecutive home runs in a Sunday doubleheader. Charlie played for the Baltimore Orioles, Detroit Tigers and the Chicago White Sox. Charlie was inducted into the state of Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 1997.

He is survived by his four children, Charles (Nancy) Maxwell Jr. of Paw Paw, Jeffrey Maxwell of Paw Paw; two daughters, Cindy (John) Goldberg of Paw Paw, and Kelle (Greg) Dillon of Holly Ridge, NC. Charlie is also survived by 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Goldie Ann Maxwell in 2021; his sisters, Wilma Maxwell and Maxine Bosworth; and his brother, William Maxwell.

Family and friends were invited to visit Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 11 a.m. to noon at Adams Funeral Home, 502 West Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, where a celebration of life was held with the Rev. Ron Packer officiating. Burial followed at Wildey Cemetery, Paw Paw Township.

For those planning a memorial contribution, the family request memorials be directed to: Lawton High School Athletic Boosters, PO Box 39, Lawton, MI, 49065, Paw Paw High School Athletics, 30609 East Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw, MI, 49079 or to Centrica Care Navigators, 7100 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

Donald Peter Brezinski

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Donald Peter Brezinski, 78, of Paw Paw, MI. Don left us peacefully, in his sleep, Dec. 18, 2024. Don's life was one of profound curiosity, boundless love, and unrelenting passion for discovery. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Born on Dec. 2, 1946, in Detroit, MI, to the late Peter and Nadia Brezinski, Don's intellect and thirst for knowledge were evident from a very early age. His academic journey, based on a wild proficiency for science and mathematics, sent him to University of Detroit Jesuit High School where he joined the "Men of Honor"- friends that he would claim for the next 60 years. His days being a classical pianist and National Merit scholar and his four-year claim to the National Honor Society were just the beginning of a life full of notables.

From the beginning of his career where he sequenced DNA to the end of his life where he shared his fascination of an infinite universe, Don's life was all about discovery. From his patents to his travels, Don was always studying his place... his role in an ever-expanding universe. Where did he fit? What more could he learn? What more could he give? His doctoral studies in medicine, physics and biochemistry uncovered the complexities of base DNA. His analytic work at Corning claimed ground-breaking patents that we still use today. His work with Artificial Intelligence at Bell Labs was nothing short of pioneering. Everything he touched found wildly incredible results.

Don's study of philosophy and passion for discovery took him all over the world. He traveled to more than 50 countries, climbing mountains, bicycling across Europe, and even sleeping under the Eiffel Tower. The adventure and curiosity never stopped.

Don's life of discovery was the gift that he shared with the people he loved and with the world itself, and we are all better for it.

Don is pre-deceased by the love of his life, Patricia Canete, but leaves behind a life full of friends who call him family.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Don will be laid to rest at St. Mary's Cemetery, Paw Paw.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

List of Biden achievements is baloney

To the Editor of the Courier-Leader –

A recent letter to your good paper included an alphabetized inventory of so-called successes of the soon-to-be relieved Biden/Harris/Obama/Clinton presidency. It was a long laundry list, and I will concede that not all the laundry was dirty. I can somewhat agree with the writer as there have admittedly been a few positive accomplishments since January of 2021.

On first reading I was prepared to ignore the selectively incomplete list because I am hopeful that 20 January 2025 will not come too soon, but then the tragic news of a woman being set on fire by an illegal immigrant in the New York subway was reported (can you say "Laken Riley" Mr. Biden?), and now I feel compelled to add some of my own suggestions to the list of so-called Biden "achievements":

- Dramatic reductions in military recruiting, readiness and morale
- Loss of billions of dollars' worth of armor to the Taliban, needlessly lost American and allied lives, and a continuing flow of money to a woman- and Christian-persecuting Afghan regime after our tragic surrender to the terrorists of Kabul
- Unpunished invasions of American airspace and telecom sites by foreign adversaries
- Billions of unaudited contributions to the Ukrainians to include American missiles now being launched into Russia
- Increased numbers of abortions of American babies
- Greater use of RICO laws and the FACE act to harass, persecute and prosecute peaceful anti-abortion protesters
- More unprosecuted attacks on churches and pregnancy resource centers
- Increasing numbers of different genders despite both science and tradition
- More persistent attempts to normalize sex change mutilation surgeries of minors
- An unqualified but box-checking Supreme Court Justice who cannot define "woman"
- Increased cost of food and energy and inflation in general
- An "Inflation Reduction Act" which doesn't
- 87,000 new IRS agents with a "promise" not to audit incomes less than $400,000.00
- Student loan forgiveness despite a Supreme Court ruling that it was unconstitutional (I paid off my student loans, who paid yours?)
- Continuing vilification of those who are "not paying their fair share" whatever that is
- An unsustainably swollen national debt and deficit and consequent interest payments
- More and more university, government and corporate diversity, inclusion and equity (DIE) offices with fewer results as we become even more intolerant of one another
- Increased per pupil public funding of K thru 12 education with a continued drop in math, science, reading and academic performance
- More boys in girls' sports, locker rooms and bathrooms
- Uncountable and unaccountable millions of illegal alien invaders including known criminals and military-age men from unfriendly countries such as Communist China
- Hundreds of thousands of lost alien children, sex slaves and fentanyl deaths
- 37 federal death row presidential commutations of murderers and child pornographers
- Presidential pardon of 11 plus years of Hunter Biden's crimes, most yet unknown
- Disastrous government, media and pharma company behavior during Covid times
- Ironically, record purchases of privately-owned firearms consequent to all of the above as folks naturally choose to rely less and less on the government for security

Considering recent revelations that Joe Biden has been mentally incompetent for most of his tenure, perhaps if we can determine who has been running the Office of President while involved in the scandalous cover-up, the blame for the above incomplete list of failures should fall upon their shoulders: don't blame Joe, blame his anonymous handlers. Whoever is responsible, the 46th President will be remembered as the worst of all 47. God bless America.

Jack Bley, Paw Paw

PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: NATE MENCK; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 12/26/2024; ATTY FILE #: 24-015945; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Nate Menck, a single person, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for M&I Bank FSB, Mortgagee, dated July 8, 2005 and recorded July 25, 2005 in Liber 1442, Page 482 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association fka The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-RZ3, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Eight and 59/100 Dollars ($83,308.59).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 23, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Almena, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:

PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST SECTION LINE AT THE INTERSECTION OF WHISKEY RUN ROAD; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE CENTERLINE A DISTANCE OF 450 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO SAID ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 400 FEET; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY PARALLEL TO THE CENTERLINE OF WHISKEY RUN TO SAID EAST SECTION LINE; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

34201 Whiskey Run Road, Mattawan, Michigan 49071

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: December 26, 2024
File No. 24-015945
Firm Name: Orlans PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(12-26)(01-16)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Wayne R. Pothoff and Roberta J. Pothoff, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Date of Mortgage: July 1, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $339,965.09
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 142, Silvergrass, a site condominium, according to the master deed recorded in Liber 1611, Page 233, Van Buren county record, and designated as Van Buren county subdivision plan no. 132, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the above described master deed and amendments thereto and as disclosed by act 59 of the public acts of 1978, as amended.
Common street address (if any): 25441 Forest Ln, Mattawan, MI 49071-9671
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: December 19, 2024
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1548185

(12-19)(01-09)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Wade Waldrup, single man, whose address is 58927 Norton Street, Mattawan, Michigan 49071, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, being a mortgage dated July 13, 2023, and recorded on July 25, 2023 in Liber 1755 Page 169, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated December 3, 2024 and recorded on December 6, 2024 in Liber 1772 Page 902, Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of THREE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO AND 86/100 DOLLARS ($318,832.86). Said premises are situated in the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: UNIT 34, CONCORD FARMS, A SITE CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN LIBER 1744, PAGE 586 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS, AND DESIGNATED AS VAN BUREN COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 146, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED MASTER DEED AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AND AS DISCLOSED BY ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED. Street Address: 58927 Norton Street, Mattawan, Michigan 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: December 19, 2024 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 24 6129

(12-19)(01-09)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: SHANNAN MESSERSMITH; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 12/19/2024; ATTY FILE #: 24-002759-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Shannan Messersmith and Spencer Messersmith, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: October 6, 2023 Recorded on October 13, 2023, Liber 1758, on Page 183, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Union Home Mortgage Corp. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Three and 82/100 Dollars ($182,593.82) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3 in Block 1 in Hilliard`s Addition to the Village (now City) of Hartford, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 25 of Plats, Page 320, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 120 Hillsborough St, Hartford, MI 49057 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Union Home Mortgage Corp. Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1548414

(12-19)(01-09)

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

AVB Construction, LLC is preparing to construct turf and track improvements for Mattawan Consolidated Schools. Commencement of construction is scheduled for March 2025.

AVB is performing multiple projects at Mattawan Consolidated Schools over the next 2 years.

Bid Information
Contact Wendy Lockner for access to bidders' instructions, plans and specifications:
wlockner@avbinc.com 860-874-9577

All bidders must supply a bid bond.

Bid Information is available now.

Bids are due: Wednesday, January, 22nd at 11:00 AM EST at the Mattawan Consolidated Schools Central Office (ATTN Pam): 56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071

There will be a sealed public bid opening to follow.

Project Location, Schedule
Mattawan Consolidated Schools
Turf and Track Project Starts March 2025 – Completion August 2025

Scopes of Work Bidding
03.100 Concrete, 26.100 Electrical & Low Voltage, 31.100 Sitework, 32.180 Athletic Surfacing (Track), 32.310 Fences & Gates, 32.920 Artificial Turf

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Paw Paw wrestlers defeat Niles

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's wrestling team defeated Niles 47-36 in wrestling action on Dec. 18.

For Paw Paw:

Daniel Hadley (120) pined Korbin Hughes in 1:10; Grant Krause (126) pinned Keegan Alright in 1:09; David Pokurny (132) was pinned by Elliott Legus in 26 seconds; London Bilton (138) was pinned by John Jones in 44 seconds; Kholby Armijo (144) pinned Nathan Smith in 3:46; Justin Luhman (150) pinned Dillon Pearman in 45 seconds; Zackary Peak (157) lost on a fall in 4:45 to Aiden Brazo; and Kameron Armco (165) pinned Ward Cheney in 1:39.

Also for Paw Paw, Jaydon Smith (175) lost on a pin in 52 seconds to Samuel Rucker; Gunner Gale (190) beat Bryce Morrison on a technical fall 17-0; Paw Paw forfeited to Ronald Fiedler (215) Aaron Quiles (285) was pinned in 38 seconds and Mason Volenski (106) and Sophia Fonseca (113) both won by forfeits.

The same night, Paw Paw lost to 45-29 to Edwardsburg.

Winners for Paw Paw were Mason Volenski (106) by forfeit; Daniel Hadley (120) by a pin over Andrew Jarvis; Grant Krause (126) over Brad Heflin by major decision 13-5; Kholby Armco (144) over Turin Zimpleman in 2:36; Zackary Peak (157) decisioned Nicholas Edgerton 13-5; and Gunnar Gale (175) decisioned Cale Myers 4-1.

Covert wrestlers keep busy

By John Raffel
Correspondent

COVERT — Covert's wrestling team competed recently in the Mat Cat Holiday Duals in Montague.

Covert lost to Muskegon Catholic Central 36-18.

There were double forfeits at 120, 126 150 106 and 113. Winning by forfeits for Covert were Chris Vargas (144), Giovanne Aviles (165) and Leo Basurto (285). Covert forfeited at 132, 138, and 190.

Also for Covert, Allison Vargas (157) was pinned in 27 seconds by Joseph Schneller, Bladmir Santiago (175) was pinned in 54 seconds by Miles Rustic and Lily Harris (215) was pinned in 27 seconds by Alphonso Lopez.

Leo Basurto got a win in a loss to Montague.

In that match for Covert, Chris Vargas (144) was pinned in 26 seconds by Kaiden Jeffery, Allison Vargas (157) was pinned 14 seconds by Michael Jones, Giovanne Aviles (165) was pinned in 59 seconds by Ethan Bassett, Bladimir Santiago was pinned in 51 seconds by Clay Jordan and Lily Harris (215) was pinned in 1:42 by Anthony Hays.

In a loss to Tri County, Bladimir Santiago (175) won his match for Covert. Chris Vargas lost a 21-6 technical fall at 144 pounds to Jerry Siegrist. Chris and Allison Merges, Aviles, Lily Harris and Basurto lost their matches by pins.

South Haven swimmer talented in various events

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's swim and dive team this season had a 19th place finish at the state meet and among the reasons was the performance of senior Gianna Bell.

This season, Bell, whose mother Julie Bell is coach,, participated in the 200 freestyle relay, the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

She placed in the 400 freestyle relay, 14th, and was 16th in the 200 medley.

"It was just really exiting," Bell said. "It's the best we've ever done at state. I've been to state three years. It's the first tike we've place at the finals. Our coach is super inspiration.. She does a lot for us. She is constantly try giving ups inspiration and mental preparation."

Bell was the anchor of the 200 medley relay and the lead on the other relay.

Bell indicated being the lead leg "is definitely more scary than being the anchor because you're starting the race,; Bell said. "You have to have a fast start off the block. It's all about reaction time. Usually your time has to be the fastest out of all the other members on your team. Being the lead, you're stating the entire race off."

Bell said good technique is among her strengths.

She has been a competitive swimmer for 13 years and has ended her career.

"I'll miss the my teammates," Bell said. "I've made such a special bond with them the last four years."

She also does track and field and dancing. She runs the own 400 and 100 and the 4x1 and 4x4 in the track.

Bangor wrestlers shine at Comstock

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor's wrestling team had a big day a the Comstock Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 28.

At 120 pounds, Aiden Munoz, in round 3, pinned Ezekiel Case of Hudsonville in 1:41, but lost his match for third place to Zachary Fassler of Grand Rapids Northview 10-5.

Wyatt Schneider in the semifinals at 132 pounds was pinned by Daniel White of Hartford in 1:12.

Ismael Reyna (138) in the quarterfinals was pinned in 2:41 by Shawn Quartell.

Mason Williams (157) had a major decision 10-2 over Logan Marshall in Consolation Round Three.

Trap Abbott (165) pinned Owen Neville in 2:36 in the consolation round 3 and won the fifth-place match for Austin Eaton 10-6.

Brendon Jackson (175) won his quarterfinal match over Aadan Raczka by pin in 1:19. Enrique Macedo (190) lost his consolation semifinal on a pin by Enrique Macedo in 3:30.

Bangor won a recent match at the South Haven Invitational over Lakeshore 48-25. Bangor winners were: Jack Loomis, Trap Abbott, Brendon Jackson, Enrique Macedo, Daniel Marin, Aiden Munoz, Wyatt Schneider, and Isabel Marin-Hernandez.]

Bangor lost to a narrow 42-36 match to Paw Paw. Bangor winners were Daniel Marin, Luis Alfonzo, Aiden Munoz, Wyatt Schneider, Brendan Jackson and Enrique Macedo.

Packard to enter South Haven Hall of Fame

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The alumni student-athlete to be inducted into the 2025 South Haven High Schools Hall of Fame has been announced by Athletic Director, Brock Thumm. In a press release, Thumm said Aaron Packard, a 2000 graduate, will be honored on Jan, 24, during the high school basketball games at LC Mohr gymnasium.

Packard was a three-sport Ram competitor who stood out in football and baseball from 1997-2000. As a quarterback in football and infielder in baseball. Packard was decorated at multiple levels.

Packard is employed by Palisades Nuclear Power Plant and is a lifelong resident of South Haven,

A press release from last year indicated Western Michigan University softball head coach Marlee Wilson was inducted into the South Haven High School Hall of Fame Class of 2024. Wilson earned Hall of Fame recognition for her athletic achievements, her phenomenal academic awards, and her uniqueness as being the first SHHS graduate to be hired as Head Coach for a Major Sport at a Division 1 University.

Wilson graduated from South Haven in 2013 with a total of seven varsity letters spanning from swimming, golf, and softball. During her four years at the high school level on the field, Wilson was selected as an All-State player after leading her team as a pitcher to three straight conference championships.

Bangor boys fall to Coloma

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Many boys basketball teams take a break over the holidays.

But coach Rob Culbertson and his Bangor boys decided to stay busy and had a home contest on Friday against Coloma.

Bangor boys lost 62-33. Carson Pullins scored 12 points and Jonah Luter scored 10 points.

Bangor will play on Friday Jan. 3 at Covert (0-1) at 7:30 p.m.

Bangor overall is 1-5 and in the conference is 1-3.

Bangor's only win so far this season was 50-35 over Lawrence. Banger lost to Centreville 78-36 on Dec. 19.

After playing Covert, Bangor will have home games on Jan. 7 with Comstock, on Jan. 9 with Marcellus, on Jan 13 with Gobles, on Jan 14 with Bloomingdale, on Jan. 22 with Decatur and on Jan. 24 with Cassopolis.

The Bangor girls also play at Coloma on Jan. 3 at home and will try top snap a three-game losing streak. The Bangor girls lost to Decatur 51-35 on Dec. 13 to Lawrence 44-24 on Dec. 17 and 44-19 to Centreville on Dec. 19.

Bloomingdale basketball

Bloomingdale girls lost 56-31 to Marcellus prior to enter holiday break and are 1-5. The Bloomingdale boys lost 69-42 to Marcellus on Dec. 19 and are 3-4. On Jan. 7, the boys play at Decatur while the boys are home against Decatur on the 7th.

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